

Spring 2-24-1972

Suggested Procedure for Disestablishment of Academic Programs

Academic Senate
Illinois State University

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Recommended Citation

Senate, Academic, "Suggested Procedure for Disestablishment of Academic Programs" (1972). *Academic Senate Minutes*. Paper 127.
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Revised as of February 24, 1972

SUGGESTED PROCEDURE FOR
DISESTABLISHMENT OF ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

- I. Any member of the University community may ask for consideration of the proposal to discontinue a program.
- II. The proposal to discontinue together with a brief case for discontinuance shall be sent to the Academic Planning Committee.
- III. The Academic Planning Committee shall have three initial responsibilities:
 - a. Inform all academic units involved and afford each the opportunity to respond.
 - b. In clear cases in which all the involved academic areas concur, the Academic Planning Committee may send a recommendation to the Academic Senate for transmittal to the President.
 - c. When there is difference of opinion, determine what groups should study the proposal and make the recommendation on the merits.
 1. In cases involving one and only one College, the responsibility for deliberation shall be assigned to the Dean of that College and its Curriculum Committee.
 2. In cases involving more than one College, the Planning Committee shall assign responsibility to the Deans and Curriculum Committees of the Colleges concerned.
- IV. The Dean(s) and Curriculum Committee(s) assigned responsibility for deliberation shall take whatever steps are necessary to make a recommendation to the President via the Academic Senate. Prior to such recommendation accompanied by the underlying rationale,
 - a. shall provide opportunity for all interested parties to be heard on the merits of the issue.
 - b. may select and utilize the services of special consultants.
- V. The steps in discontinuance of the program shall cover
 - a. the phasing out or reassigning of courses in the curriculum of that program.
 - b. the safeguarding of the interests of the students actively enrolled in the program.
 - c. the reassigning or otherwise safeguarding of the interests of faculty and staff associated with the program.
- VI. On receipt of a recommendation regarding the discontinuance of a program the Academic Senate shall give its advice in transmitting the recommendation to the President. This may be based on:
 - a. study and review of the recommendation by the Academic Affairs Committee.
 - b. The reaction of the Academic Affairs Committee to the recommendation shall be reported to the Senate for its action.
 - c. After debate and deliberation the Senate shall transmit its advice to the President along with the recommendation.

Because the purpose of Illinois State University, as is the purpose of all universities, is to produce an enlightened citizenry, capable of making the wise and responsible choices required in a free society;

Because this purpose requires without qualification that the University serve impartially the citizens of all races, creeds, colors, political parties, and other majorities and minorities by educating the young for full and free participation in the economic, social, and political processes provided for in the statutes and in the State and Federal constitutions;

Because the University is obliged without statement of institutional position to operate within the provisions of these statutes, constitutions, and bills of rights at both State and Federal levels;

Because to fail to so operate is to subject the University, its faculty, and its administrators to societal reprimand, to legal restraint or injunction, and to discontinuance of support;

Because the rule of "siding" with none in order to serve all impartially and fully makes the cherished principle of academic freedom a defensible and, indeed, an essential extension of the freedom of speech and press as provided in the First Amendment;

Because the rights of all students, faculty members, and administrators as citizens acting individually or through non-university groups and organizations are guaranteed by the bills of rights and the constitutions of the State and Federal governments; and

Because accepted academic practice does not permit either students or faculty members to use their classes for the teaching or discussion of controversial matter that has no relation to the subject matter of the course,

Be it resolved (1) that no representative faculty member, faculty body, officer, or agent of Illinois State University shall take an institutional position on any partisan issue for the simple reasons that taking such a position reduces the ability of the University to serve impartially all the people of the State of Illinois and produces conditions and results not in agreement with University Policies as stated in Articles II and III of the Illinois State University Constitution; (2) that, in clarification of this policy, the Academic Senate define a "partisan issue" as a subject of political, social, religious, or similar import on which the members of society outside the University are in serious disagreement or polarized and are in the process of resolving the issue through regular democratic channels; and (3) that, in further clarification of this policy, the Academic Senate define "institutional position" as one on which the University as a community of scholars is represented as having reached a decision for the purpose of influencing society in the resolution of the issue that has polarized it.

Respectfully submitted,

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